

12th May 2020

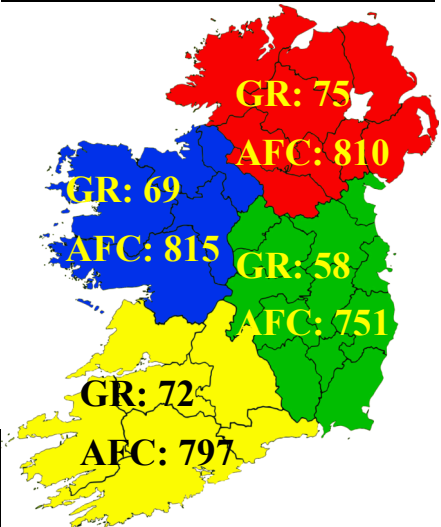
PastureBase Ireland Current Performance (Last 7 Days):

PastureBase
IRELAND

AFC	Stocking Rate	Cover/Cow	Growth	Demand	Pregrazing
798 kg DM/ha	4 LU/ha	200 kg DM/ha	69 kg DM/ha	61 kg DM/ha	1,690 kg DM/ha

- Surplus grass & growth exceeding demand on some farms on PBI. Farmers should make the decision to “**skip ahead**” and cut a paddock/ close off a paddock for surplus bales to keep pregrazing at 1,400 kg DM/ha and cover/cow at 160 kg DM/LU
- Some farms in north Leinster (in local areas that did not receive rain) need to hold rotation due to lack of rainfall recently. See page 2 for guidelines on dealing with a soil moisture deficit
- Key tools for farmers to use on PastureBase: Wedge & Cover Summary, Predicted Wedge, Grazing Planner, Grazings & Silage Events, Recording of Fertiliser/Slurry. All of these tools are available on the PBI Offline App
- Soil fertility reports are now available on the PastureBase app

Below: Covers in the Last 7 Days



Predicted Growth Rate: Elodie Ruelle Moorepark

Moorepark 76 kg DM/ha

Ballyhaise 59 kg DM/ha

Johnstown Castle 59 kg DM/ha

Athenry 59 kg DM/ha

Grass Quality Rewarding Farmers

- The Grass10 Boot Challenge: Farmers are sending in the before and after pictures of grazing using their boot in Grass10 WhatsApp groups. Trends show that where the pregrazing is 1,400 kg DM/ha & cover/LU 160 kg DM/LU, grass quality and graze outs are much better.
- Farms should be walked twice weekly to make decisions. Predicted growth rates are variable throughout the country. Use the pregrazing yield, cover/cow, growth, demand & average farm cover to make decisions for the farm
- **Keeping pregrazing at 1400 kg DM/ha will:**
 1. **Increase milk solids/ daily liveweight gain**
 2. **Result in better cleanouts**
 3. **Promote quicker regrowth**
- Where **surplus bales are cut, slurry should be spread using LESS techniques** to replace the K and P off-takes from these paddocks
- **All fertiliser should contain Sulphur. Protected Urea should be spread when spreading straight Nitrogen & Sulphur** to reduce costs and lower GHG emissions on farms. Ordinary Urea should not be spread with current weather conditions.



Sean Kelly, Nenagh, showing us that walking the farm twice weekly is helping to keep pregrazing at 1,400 kg DM/ha



Mike Ahern, Ballyduff, co. Cork is currently growing 92 kg DM/ha/day. Residuals are excellent. Surplus grass is skipped (silage) to keep pregrazing at 1400 kg DM/ha

12th May 2020

Upcoming Twitter Takeovers:

Tomorrows takeover comes from the calf to beef trial in Grange! See the promotional video on the

following link: <https://bit.ly/35SJ5XA>



'Behind the Scenes'

from the
Teagasc Calf to Beef Programme
with Nicky Byrne & Donall Fahy

Twitter @TeagascGrass10 &
Instagram @Teagasc Takeover

Wednesday, 13th May

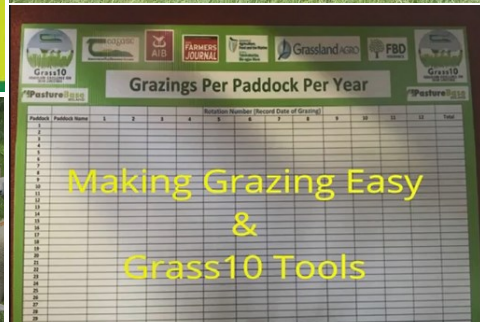



'Behind the Scenes'

from the
Teagasc INZAC Flock at Teagasc Athenry
with
Fiona McGovern

Twitter @TeagascGrass10 Instagram @Teagasc

Wednesday, 20th May



Making Grazing Easy & Grass10 Tools



Dealing with a Soil Moisture Deficit

- Most of the country is experiencing high growth rates, however a small number of farms in areas that have not received rain in the eastern part of the country are experiencing a soil moisture deficit. See the figure to the right. See the following tips on dealing with low growth rates:
- Hold a 20 day rotation.** E.g. if the grazing platform is 60 acres, livestock should be grazing 3 acres/day. Increase grazing area or increase supplement if necessary.
 - Walk the farm twice weekly to monitor growth rate and average farm cover. Be proactive and make decisions early.**
 - Avoid cutting surplus bales off the grazing platform and hold average farm cover.** Grass will grow grass in a soil moisture deficit. **Do not continue to graze and run down average farm cover**
 - If there are paddocks closed off for surplus bales, these should be grazed** to extend the rotation length and to avoid running down the average farm cover on the grazing platform
 - Match growth and demand on the farm** so the average farm cover does not decline. This can be done by increasing supplement or reducing stocking rate on the grazing platform. E.g. if growth is 50 kg DM/ha and stocking rate is 3.75 LU/ha = $50/3.75 = 13$ kg grass + 5 kg meal.

Soil Moisture Deficit on Moderately Drained Soils Sunday 10th May
Source: Met Eireann

